

Craignish Village Hall

Trustees' annual report and accounts for the year ending 31 October 2024

Scottish registered charity number: SCO22883

Structure, governance and management

Craignish Village Hall is a charitable unincorporated association. Its purposes and administration arrangements are set out in its founding Trust Deed dated 26 December 1950. The organisation has been a registered charity from 08 September 1994.

Principal office and operational address

Craignish Village Hall, Ardfarn, Lochgilphead, PA31 8QN

Charitable purposes

The principal object of the charity is to maintain and operate a village hall for the benefit of the community of Craignish, Ardfarn, Barbreck and Lunga; for the purpose of physical and mental training and recreation and social, moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms, library, lectures, classes, recreation and entertainment or otherwise as may be found expedient by the inhabitants of the Parish of Craignish (in the County of Argyll) and its immediate vicinity, without distinction of sex or of any political, religious, or other opinions subject to the provisions of these presents.

The Committee and its recruitment

The Committee members (from whom the trustees are appointed) are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is held in November of each year. The Committee may co-opt members at monthly meetings, but new members are officially appointed at the AGM. Succession is managed through fixed terms of office, and regular skills audits to identify gaps in relation to business need.

Committee members are recruited through advertising via appropriate channels, and through existing committee members' wider networks. Applicants are invited to complete an expression of interest, meet the Chair and the hall manager, and attend a committee meeting as an observer.

The Committee meet monthly to discuss operational effectiveness, review the spend against budget and to manage risk. Additionally, a subset including the Chair, Treasurer and Hall Manager meet quarterly to review income and expenditure and any other financial matters arising.

The Committee are closely engaged in providing direction and support for the small, freelance and mostly part-time staff team. Working groups are established for key projects or activities, including strategic planning, funding applications, capital schemes of work and our emerging environmental agenda.

Risk management

The Committee is responsible for managing the risks of the organisation. Risks are reviewed at every Committee meeting with a focus on mitigating and preventive actions. The controls that the Committee uses are:

- Formal agendas for all Committee Meetings
- Monthly operational report
- Monthly arts/creative programming report
- Quarterly finance meetings
- Established organisational structure and lines of reporting
- Schedule of Delegation setting out financial controls
- Our defined operational procedures and policies

Key partnerships and networks

We continue to share learning and best practice with other rural community village halls, and this year partnered for the first time with Artmap Argyll. We regularly engage with organisations such as the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Scottish Rural Action (SRA), Scottish Community Tourism (SCOTO), Craignish Community Company (C3), Craignish Community council and the Argyll Third Sector Interface.

Activities and impact, 2023 – 2024

In the spirit of fostering our community and those who visit it, Craignish Village Hall provides a welcoming and safe space for local interest groups, supports intergenerational community gatherings, and encourages active participation from all ages. Our vibrant arts programme draws a broader audience to the village, and we also create opportunities for small independent businesses within our locale to thrive.

Our highly adaptable venue is used for a wide range of purposes, including cultural and educational events, local gatherings, conferences, exercise and wellbeing classes, and private celebrations (including weddings and funerals). We act as a hub for community engagement by hosting fetes, festivals, fairs, exhibitions, and fundraising events, with a particular focus on supporting local artists, crafters, and small enterprises, and upholding many local traditions.

Hosting an average of 50–60 bookings per month from August to May and slightly fewer during holiday months of June and July, Craignish Village Hall is truly a community hub – a vibrant and busy space.

Volunteering

In this financial year we had over 70 regular volunteers who donated over 650 hours. Volunteers play key roles which contribute to the long-term viability of the hall. Whether practically supporting the delivery of events or by actively fundraising for us, we genuinely couldn't sustain our levels of programming without them.

Arts programme

As part of our Arts Programme, funded by *Creative Scotland*, *The Touring Network*, private donors and *The Craignish Trust*, Craignish Village Hall hosted 15 events, which attracted over 520 participants, plus 311 visitors to *Artmap Argyll*, and a further 310 visitors to the Sunday Sessions and our first ever annual Feis. Selected highlights as follows:

Miss Lindsay's Secret explored the intimate tale of a Scottish seamstress through performance and a question-and-answer session.

In January, Craignish Village Hall offered a sneak-preview of *Sarvnik Kaur's* multi-award-winning documentary film *Against the Tide*, following two indigenous fishermen in Mumbai and how they deal with the threats of changes in climate. This was followed by a live Q&A with Kaur.

An Dannsa Dub joined us in March, summoning the joyous communal energy of a ceilidh. Born from a love of traditional Scottish folk, dub, reggae and dance music, their sound celebrates the ancient Gaelic and West African rhythms that influenced reggae and, in turn, modern dance music.

This was swiftly followed by the astounding musical and visual experience of *Eala Shailein (The Swan of Salen)* - a projected ballet-film with a live score provided by *The Willow Trio* - and then *Fox and Hound Theatre Company* bringing us their dynamic working-class story of friendship and music *Because We Said We Would*. A new regular arts event is our *Vinyl Night* sessions. These welcome local people to present a Vinyl set as a DJ, and we offer this as a free entry community event.

We established a new partnership with *Artmap Argyll*, acting as both hub and an exhibition hall, showcasing some of the most talented and diverse artists in our region. This was our first time as an Artmap Argyll host. We focused on young artists from the local area who were just starting their further education studying various art mediums at Scottish universities, as well as welcoming exhibits from other local artists who do not have their own exhibition space. Artmap was closely followed by a wonderfully creative experience of dance and movement workshops and performance titled *Listen to the Forest*.

October brought Scottish folk musician *Rachel Sermanni* to the hall as part of our funded arts programme. Rachel was supported by a very talented village resident, singer *Angie Bird*.

Our funded arts programme is complemented by several direct hall bookings from performers. In 2023-2024 these bookings included: the *Mad Ferret Band* who brought their *Whirl Tour of Scotland* to Argyll, celebrating a blend of traditional Scottish and folk music, delivered with high energy and fun; *Carsaig Films* screening of *It'll Never Work*, celebrating the release of a local documentary about the UK's first fully electric fishing boat, set in nearby Tayvallich; and a musical evening with singer-songwriter *Adam Holmes*.

Young people's programme

A dedicated proportion of our arts programme is tailored to families and young people, with as many of these as possible remaining free to access. Selected highlights include:

February brought about the annual *Lanterns Festival*, with local schools, residents and volunteers all coming together in weeks prior to co-create beautiful hand-made lanterns for use during the parade. This year's theme was *Under the Sea*, celebrating not only our location but also our commitment to rising environmental awareness, collaborating with local environmental organisation *Seawilding*.

Over the summer we offered a lineup of events for all the family. The *Feis Craiginis* celebrated Gaelic culture and language through a packed programme including a family ceilidh, creative writing and dance workshops and music sessions, launching the new *Craignish Musical Instrument Library*. Our young families also enjoyed a day of creativity with *Clyde-Built Puppets*.

Community events

We hosted 40 events as part of our dedicated community offering, including:

Our annual Christmas market saw over 20 stall holders participate, offering local handmade arts and crafts, gifts and more. The market felt more important than ever this year, given many local independent businesses had seen a drop in trade as a result of the main road closure.

We hosted a community celebration when the main road re-opened allowing us to reconnect again in-person with friends, family, school staff and children from whom we had been cut off, owing to the landslide.

Our annual *Community Hogmanay Party* is a hugely anticipated part of the village calendar. This year, we had an amazing light show, a local ceilidh band, and a DJ set. Our Community Ceilidhs are always particularly well-attended by our 12–25-year demographic, who all enjoy participating in the traditional dances they learnt as young children.

In March, the hall hosted the ever-popular *Boat Jumble* with over 20 stall holders and 12 car boot sellers. The event welcomed over 140 visitors and raised money for the local Boat Club in Craignish, who ran the event in conjunction with the hall.

Staple regular favourites such as *Knit and Natter*, the *Sunday Sessions*, *Craignish Coffee Club* and the *Children's Lego and Craft Club* continued throughout the year. We are often the chosen venue for locals to run their own fundraising events for chosen charities – this year including MacMillan Cancer Support and the Children's Hospices Across Scotland.

Bookings and hires

As always, we're grateful for the symbiotic relationship between the hall and our community, and we're delighted we can sustain a venue which can support many small local businesses.

In 2023–24 we averaged 50–60 bookings per month from September to June, with the summer months of July and August being slightly quieter, averaging 30–40 bookings per month. Our hall hirers offer a wide range of private or group events, including yoga, Taichi, Pilates, massage therapy, sound bathing and artisanal workshops. The hall also serves as a regular venue for birthday parties for locals of all ages.

A long-term booking of Hall 3 by a local heritage charity, using our premises as safe storage, and a meeting / study venue, provided a stable and much-needed source of income until the end of June 2024.

Wider community impact

In October 2023, Ardfern was cut off almost entirely after unprecedented rain triggered a series of disruptive events. A once-in-a-lifetime catastrophic landslide left our community without access to Lochgilphead, and emergency repairs were needed to make bridges on the main route to Oban safe. This effectively meant Ardfern and our neighbouring villages had limited access to critical services, such as medical care, shops, petrol stations etc, without significant diversion. Our tiny village was brought to national and international media attention, as the vulnerability of remote rural locations in the face of the climate emergency was highlighted.

Craignish Village Hall played a key role in the heart of the response: providing a hub for residents seeking support and information. Our Community Council used the hall to host an online zoom meeting with our local councillors and roads department to allow an opportunity for local residents to talk directly to those handling the response at the council. The hall twice hosted STV News reporters to hear from the experiences of local people. We also organised and hosted a Road Opening Party once the main road was opened again to boost local morale.

Beyond emergencies, Craignish Village Hall plays an ongoing role in addressing everyday social needs. We provide an inclusive and safe space for some of our most vulnerable residents. Our community programming prioritises low-income households, older adults, and those with limited mobility or access to transport.

Our village primary school continued to use the hall for their weekly PE lessons during the winter months, and for several bookings throughout the year for school shows and award ceremonies.

Additionally, with the closure of local churches, the hall has become one of the few remaining civic spaces capable of hosting key life events such as funerals, weddings, and other commemorative gatherings, ensuring our small community has a dignified place to come together in times of both sorrow and celebration. During the year we hosted three funerals and wakes and three weddings.

Digital engagement

All our active social media platforms have seen an increase in followers over the year, likely due to the shift towards digital from both our resident and visiting audiences, and possibly partly due to circumstance, as we provided regular and consistent updates on the challenges facing our community following the landslide in October.

Facebook continues to be our primary source of digital engagement, with over 1,300 followers. Instagram has been increasing in popularity, with more visitors to the area using this as a means of seeing What's On before they visit.

Environmental impact

We continue to be mindful of both our direct environmental impact, and the indirect positive benefit an organisation like ours can have. Much of our programming is thematically connected to the natural world, and we look to promote local awareness of environmental issues where appropriate.

We continue to practice our green principals to a high standard ensuring that we recycle as much as possible, source ecological products and remain faithful to our zero-waste target.

In 2025, we plan to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment so we can better understand our own carbon footprint and where we can make positive changes for future sustainability.

Reimagining our purpose, together – a visioning journey

In recent years, our rural community has faced a convergence of challenges that have tested our resilience, adaptability and unity. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life in ways we never could have imagined. It reshaped how we gather, how we support one another, and how we see the role of shared spaces in fostering connection, belonging and wellbeing.

At the same time, climate-related pressures - from our hyper-local extreme weather events to those playing out on a global stage - have added new layers of urgency to the way we think about sustainability, preparedness and long-term relevance.

These experiences have prompted us to pause and ask big, essential questions: What is our role in this evolving landscape? How can we best serve our community - not just now, but for decades to come?

As an organisation deeply embedded in the fabric of our village life, we recognise that the time has come to revisit, reimagine, and realign our purpose, our activities, and our ambitions. We're proud of all we've built and achieved, but we also know that remaining relevant, sustainable and inclusive means embracing change with courage, curiosity and care.

That's why, in the 2025 financial year, we've committed to starting a comprehensive revisioning exercise; a values-led process that will guide us into the next phase of our journey, allowing us to create space for new voices, ideas and direction.

This initiative will be especially meaningful as it coincides with the 20th anniversary of our village hall building; a space that has come to symbolise so much more than bricks and mortar. Two decades on, it feels right to celebrate that legacy by looking forward, with intention and imagination.

Through this process, we will:

- Reflect deeply on our values, ensuring they are inclusive, future-facing, and true to our community's evolving identity
- Review our strategic aims, aligning them with the needs, hopes and feedback of our many stakeholders
- Re-energise our organisation, so we remain agile, authentic and responsive in a changing world
- Reconnect with our purpose, embracing innovation while holding fast to the principles that have guided us from the beginning

We hope this to be more than a strategic refresh, but an opportunity to reclaim our narrative, reinvest in what matters most, and shape a shared vision that brings energy, relevance and resilience into everything we do.

Final Accounts for the period 1st November 2023 to 31st October 2024

RECEIPTS	2024	2023
Income Type		
Arts Grants ¹	£49,070	£22,563
Hall Grants		£6,796
Arts Events	£6,495	£4,902
Bar and Refresh	£12,584	£5,957
Donations	£10,627	£6,206
Arts Donations	£1,087	
Fundraising Events	£1,850	£3,399
Rental - One Off	£5,784	£8,702
Rental - Regular	£9,069	£12,032
Rental - Arts Programme	£2,270	
Repairs and Maintenance	£62	
Services Admin	£1,315	£434
Unclassified Income		£423
Wedding Income	£3,639	£900
Xma Market Proxy Account	£2,312	
Total	£106,164	£72,314

PAYMENTS**Payment Type**

Admin CVH & Arts	£26,192	£25,296
Donations		£350
Arts Donations	£162	
Arts Events	£15,283	£7,783
Bar & Refreshments	£6,913	£3,419
Bins, Cleaning, etc	£2,224	£1,680
Capital Equipment		£576
Community Events		£1,252
Fundraising Events	£371	£510
Funeral Costs	£203	
Insurance	£2,219	£1,842
Licences	£496	£301
Marketing	£200	£150
Office Suppliers	£647	£1,014
Purchases - Minor	£318	£71
Refunded Expenses	£74	£209
Repairs and Maintenance ²	£13,989	£3,407
Staff Costs, Travel, Training	£768	£432
Utilities, Gas, Elec, Phone, Rates	£2,718	£2,179
Warm Spaces	£795	
Wedding Expenses	£1,544	£69
Xmas Market Proxy Account	£2,312	

Total	£77,426	£50,540
--------------	----------------	----------------

SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£28,738	£21,774
------------------------	----------------	----------------

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT
31/10/24**

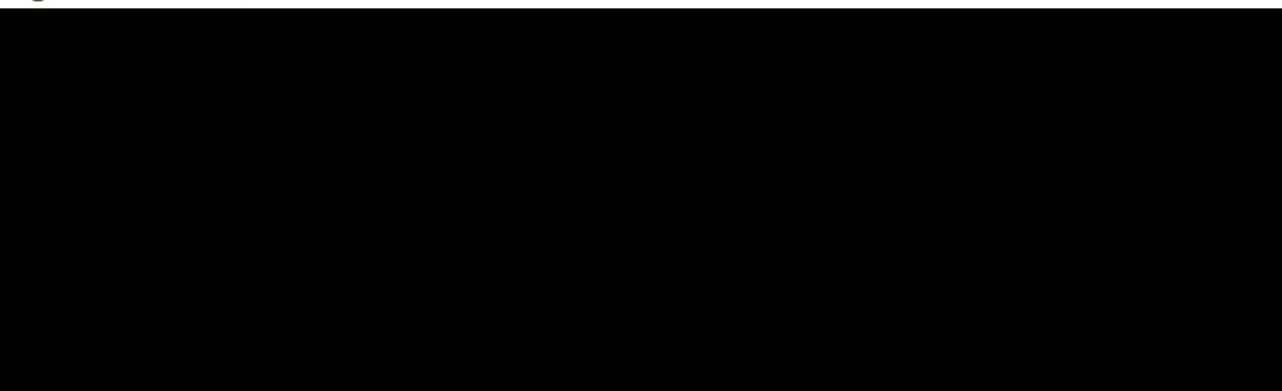
	2024	2023
Cash	£101,835	£70,736
Hall and Equipment at Cost	£612,292	£612,292
Total Assets	£714,127	£683,028
General Fund Opening Balance	£35,609	£48,962
Profit/(Loss) for the year	£28,738	£21,774
General Fund Closing Balance	£64,347	£70,736
Village Hall Capital Fund	£612,292	£612,292
Total Liabilities	£714,127	£683,028
Debtors	£29	£3,492
Creditors	£-	£-
Heat Pump Loan	£3,828	£4,959

In accordance with OSCR rules, debtors and creditors for the current year have not been recorded in the Receipts and Payments account above.

Notes:

1. We have received £40,000 funding from Creative Scotland. Although this is shown in full in the year end accounts, it should be noted this sum is to cover the period 1st November 2024 to 30th April 2026.
2. Building repairs carried out in the previous year have now been paid in full, amounting to £8,500.
3. There were no interest payments in this financial year due to the Passbook for the savings account not being sent in for updating with interest payments.

**Approved by the Trustees and
signed on their behalf:**



Fundraising and donations

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who continues to support the hall - whether by volunteering, booking our facilities, attending events, or making donations. Every form of support contributes to our ability to operate and grow. In particular, we acknowledge and thank a small but mighty group of regular local donors, whose ongoing financial contributions form a vital foundation for our work.

As part of our commitment to improving resilience and long-term sustainability, we have begun to take a more proactive approach to fundraising. We recognise the importance of diversifying our income and reducing reliance on any single stream of support.

We have seen first-hand the positive impact that external funding - such as support from Creative Scotland - can have on our programming and capacity. In 2025, we will develop a more structured approach to fundraising. This will include:

- A prioritised programme of activity to guide funding applications
- A clear and realistic fundraising plan aligned with our values and strategic aims
- Ongoing efforts to identify, apply for, and manage external grants and partnership opportunities

We remain fully committed to the Code of Fundraising Practice and uphold the Fundraising Promise in all our fundraising activities. Oversight is provided by the committee, with the Chair taking a lead role in planning and monitoring our approach. All fundraising is carried out with transparency, accountability, and respect for our supporters.

Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The Trustees and Committee Members did not receive any remuneration or allowances during the year.

Reserves

The sustained growth in rental income and range of activities on offer have contributed to a healthy surplus at the year end, further strengthening CVH's strong Balance Sheet.

In 2025 we plan to revisit our reserves policy, to allow for incremental improvements to the infrastructure and built environment.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Craignish Village Hall Committee

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st October 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities

Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner:

